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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
31 May 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report
(As of 1130 EDT)

1. Four Soviet destroyers and several naval auxiliaries are expected to augment the Soviet squadron in the Mediterranean over the weekend. The total number of Soviet ships present in the Mediterranean, however, will be only slightly higher than last June, and despite current press speculation it is not likely that the new arrivals were sent solely in response to the Middle East crisis.

25X1

[redacted] the Soviets can be expected to make the most of their naval presence in the Mediterranean to indicate their support of the Arabs.

2. Major General Moshe Dayan, commander of the Israel military forces during the 1956 Sinai campaign against Egypt, may become the Israeli defense minister in a cabinet reshuffle. The press reports that moves for a cabinet reshuffle were underway and that the Knesset might convene tomorrow in extraordinary session to approve the changes.

3. Egyptian Vice President Zakariya Muhyi-al-Din, accompanied by a high-powered delegation paid a brief visit to Baghdad around noon today. He stated on arrival that he was carrying a personal message from Nasir, reassuring the Iraqi people that Egypt's position was strong. He said, "We are not seeking aggression or war. On the contrary, we are striving for peace." After discussing the situation for two hours with President Arif, the delegation departed for Damascus.

25X1

5. The Security Council meets today at 1500 to discuss the Middle East crisis. Ambassador Goldberg was scheduled to speak again today, and delegates from Iraq, Jordan, Japan and India have also asked for speaking time. No substantive action is expected to emerge from the meeting today.

6. Iraq today began airlifting troops to Egypt "to take up positions near the Israeli border," Baghdad radio has announced.

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